

## Christopher I. Lehrich

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Boston University College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Religion  
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Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Chicago, Committee on the History of Culture.	2000
M.A. University of Chicago, Divinity School.	1994
B.A. University of Chicago, Tutorial Studies.	1992

### DISSERTATION

Hermetic Hermeneutics: Language, Magic, and Power in Cornelius Agrippa's *De occulta philosophia*

Advisers: Jonathan Z. Smith (supervisor), Allen G. Debus, Anthony C. Yu

### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Humanities Fellow, Boston University Humanities Foundation	AY 2009-2010
ACLS Fellowship	AY 2008-2009
Publication Assistance Grant, Boston University Humanities Foundation	May 2006
Nominated, Boston University Metcalf Teaching Award	November 2005
Dissertation granted distinction	August 2000
Mrs. Giles Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities	1998-99
University of Chicago Gift Aid Award Recipient	1993-98

### BOOK PUBLICATIONS

*The Occult Mind: Magic in Theory and Practice*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2007.

*The Language of Demons and Angels: Cornelius Agrippa's Occult Philosophy*. Brill's Series in Intellectual History. Leiden: E. J. Brill Academic Publications, 2003.

### CURRENT POSITION

**Assistant Professor of Religion, Boston University** 2007–

## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

**Articles:**

“Hearing and Seeing a Magic Flute.” In Lance Gharavi, ed., *Acts of Faith: New Perspectives on Religion, Theatre, and Performance* (forthcoming).

“Finding One’s Place.” In Willi Braun and Russell T. McCutcheon, eds., *Introducing Religion: Essays in Honor of Jonathan Z. Smith*, 252-66. London: Equinox Press, 2007.

“Ritual and the Writing Class.” In Catherine M. Bell, ed., *Teaching Ritual*, 273-86. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

“Cornelius Agrippa.” In Richard M. Golden, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition*. 4 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2004-2006.

“Hermeticism” and “Occult Philosophy.” In Jonathan Dewald et al., eds. *The Dictionary of Early Modern Europe*. 6 vols. New York: Scribner, 2003.

**Translated:**

“Приложение. Как читать Клода Леви-Строса [Supplement: How to read Claude Lévi-Strauss].” Translated from English by Vladimir Gusev. Supplement to Gusev, “Театр Леви-Строса [The Theater of Lévi-Strauss].” <http://post.scriptum.ru/article/levi-strauss#supplement> (accessed Feb. 1, 2009).

**Reviews:**

Review of Florian Ebeling, *The Secret History of Hermes Trismegistus*. *Renaissance Quarterly* 61 no. 2 (Summer, 2008), 643-645.

Review of Robert Ford Campany, *To Live As Long as Heaven and Earth*. *History of Religions* 46 no. 3 (February, 2007), 262-265.

Review of Györgi Szönyi, *John Dee’s Occultism*. *Renaissance Quarterly* 59 no.2 (Summer, 2006), 605-06.

Review of Norman Girardot, *The Victorian Translation of China*. *History of Religions* 45 no.1 (August, 2005), 82-84.

Review of Sylvain Matton, ed. *Documents oubliés sur l'alchimie, la Kabbale et Guillaume Postel*. *Sixteenth-Century Studies Journal* 34 no.4 (Winter, 2003), 1183-84.

Review of Rudolph Agricola, *Letters*, trans. and ed. Adrie van der Laan & Fokke Akkerman. *Renaissance Quarterly* 56 no.4 (Autumn, 2003), 1249.

Review of Martín del Río, *Investigations Into Magic*, ed. and trans. P. G. Maxwell-Stuart. *Renaissance Quarterly* 56 no.1 (Spring, 2003), 192-94.

Review of Peter Pesic, *Labyrinth: A Search for the Hidden Meaning of Science*. Sixteenth-Century Studies Journal 33 no.4 (Winter 2002), 1164-5.

Review of P.G. Maxwell-Stuart, *The Occult in Early Modern Europe: A Documentary History*. Sixteenth-Century Studies Journal 31 no.4 (Winter, 2000), 1213-15.

“Not Quite the Usual Suspects.” Review of Graham Cunningham, *Religion and Magic: Approaches and Theories*. H-Ideas, H-Net Reviews, September, 1999. URL: <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=22056938548205>.

**Conference Papers and Sessions:**

- “Polymaths and Pedagogy” April, 2008  
 BU Provost Conference, “Constructing the New Humanist in Undergraduate Education”
- “Discipline and Interdiscipline: Magical Comparison” November, 2006  
 American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- “Ritual Mathemagic: John Dee’s *Monas hieroglyphica*” November, 2006  
 North American Council for British Studies, Boston, MA
- “Magic, Comparison, Classification, Difference” June, 2006  
 Association for the Study of Esotericism Conference, Davis, CA
- “The Humanist as Collector: Athanasius Kircher in China and Egypt” October, 2004  
 Sixteenth Century Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON
- “Rewriting Ritual Magic” June, 2004  
 Association for the Study of Esotericism Conference, Lansing, MI
- “Grammatologies of Chinese Script: Japanese, European,  
 and Chinese Perspectives” March, 2003  
 Chair and Presenter; paper entitled “Athanasius Kircher and the Hieroglyphs of China”  
 Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, New York, NY
- “Words of Power: Magical Semiotics and Foreign Language in Cornelius  
 Agrippa and Athanasius Kircher” November, 2002  
 History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI
- “Signs of Power: Magic Squares and Sigils in Cornelius Agrippa” March, 2000  
 Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Florence, Italy
- “High Magic I: Theories of Magic” October, 1999  
 Session Organizer and Presenter, paper entitled “Agrippa’s Magical Language”
- “High Magic II: Astrology” – Session Organizer and Chair  
 Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, MO

- “Reading the World in Triplicate: Reuchlin and Agrippa” March, 1999  
Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- “Cryptography and Magic: The Case of Trithemius and Agrippa” October, 1998  
Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- “Toward an Interdisciplinary Model of Study” April, 1998  
University of Chicago workshop “Histories of Culture/Cultural Histories”

**Invited Lectures:**

- “Tōru Takemitsu’s Film Music” March 2008  
LJ 281: Japanese Culture Through Film, Boston University
- “The Long Research Paper in Little Time” March 2005 & 2006  
HI 301: Critical Reading in History, Boston University
- “Teaching Thesis and Argument” October 2005  
Boston University College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program
- “Teaching Research Writing” August 2003  
Boston University College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program
- “The Choice between Science and the Occult” September 2001  
Core Curriculum in the Sciences, Boston University
- “Come, Mephistopheles, let us dispute again” March, 2001  
Religion Department, University of California, Santa Barbara
- “Signs of Power: Cornelius Agrippa’s Magical Semiotics” October, 2000  
Seminar on Medieval and Renaissance Magic, Newberry Library, Chicago

**Works In Progress:**

Book: *Music Hath Charms*. Theoretical, comparative approaches to music in and by means of religious studies.

Book: *Eating Ritual*. Comparative religious studies approaches to food culture and cultural criticism.

Edited volume: *Teaching Religion*. Essays by Jonathan Z. Smith.

Edited volume: *Margins of Grammatology*, co-edited with Hajime Nakatani (McGill University).  
Contributors: Cornelius Borck, Christopher Kelty, Vicki Kirby, Thomas LaMarre, François Laruelle, Jean-Luc Nancy, Endo Tomomi. My essay is titled “Rewriting Ritual.”

Article: “Coded Magic: Semiotics and Cryptography in Trithemius and Agrippa.” In Patricia Brewerton and Stephen Clucas, eds. *Silent Languages*.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Method and Theory in the History of Religions  
Theory and Practice of Magic in the Renaissance  
Critical Theory and Textuality  
Musical Semiology and Cultural Criticism  
Comparative and Theoretical Approaches to Magic, Science, and Religion  
Magico-Religious Thought in Ancient China

## PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Visiting Assistant Professor in Religion and Writing**, Boston University 2006-07  
Both undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Religion, School of Theology, and Writing Program.

**Instructor** (full-time), Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Writing Program  
Taught three writing seminars of my own design: “Comparing Religions,” an introduction to classic texts in the study of religion; “The Great Witch Hunt,” a historical survey of early modern witch hunts; and “Magic and the Occult in Literature” (below). 2002-2006. Full responsibility for syllabi, instruction, and grading.

**Instructor** (adjunct), Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Writing Program  
Designed and taught a course entitled “Magic and the Occult in Literature,” a writing-oriented seminar using such texts as Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus* and Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Autumn 2001. Full responsibility for all syllabi, instruction, and grading.

**Instructor** (adjunct), Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Core Curriculum  
Taught a series of classic texts, from *Gilgamesh* to Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, in the Core Curriculum program, 2000-2001. Full responsibility for all section instruction within the program’s framework, including designing and grading papers.

**Instructor**, University of Chicago, Graham School of General Studies  
Designed and taught a two-quarter course entitled “Renaissance Civilization I & II,” Autumn-Winter 1997-98. Joint responsibility for all instruction.

**Instructor**, University of Chicago, Graham School of General Studies  
Designed and taught a course entitled “Magic: Medieval to Modern,” Summer 1996. Full responsibility for all instruction.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Theory of Religion  
Comparative History of Religions  
Early Modern/Renaissance Intellectual History  
Scientific Revolution  
History, Philosophy, and Theory of Writing and Language  
Theoretical Approaches to History  
Writing

## SERVICE

- Representative for BU DRTS, Council on Graduate Studies in Religion August 2009–
- Director of Graduate Studies, Division of Religious and Theological Studies, Boston University  
October 2007–August 2008; August 2009–
- Chairman, Committee on Academic Programs, Division of Religious and Theological Studies,  
Boston University September 2006–August 2008; August 2009–
- Co-Principal Developer (with William W. Grimes) and Steering Committee Member, MA  
Program in International Relations and Religion, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,  
Boston University March 2007–
- Board Member, Association for the Study of Esotericism August 2004–  
The ASE is a scholarly organization devoted to academic study of esotericism within the  
history of religions. The board oversees development and the biennial conference.
- Member, Committee on Doctoral Studies in Religion at Boston University Summer 2007
- External Reader for MA Thesis, Medieval Studies Department, Central European University  
(Budapest): Noel Putnik, “Two Conflicting Notions of Ascension in Cornelius Agrippa’s  
*De Occulta Philosophia*” May 2007
- Associate Director for Student Progress, Division of Religious and Theological Studies,  
Boston University September 2006–August 2008
- Member, Executive Committee, Division of Religious and Theological Studies,  
Boston University September 2006–August 2007
- Adviser, Literary Mētis Guild Spring 2005–December 2007  
The Guild advises and supports non-academic professional writers and publishers in  
esotericism, seeking to raise the factual and analytical quality and rigor of such writing. I  
was invited to serve as an adviser on academic perspectives, methods, and approaches.



Anthony C. Yu, Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Humanities; Professor, The Divinity School, Departments of East Asian Languages and Literatures, English Language and Literature and Comparative Literature, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

John H. Berthrong, Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Affairs; Associate Professor of Comparative Theology; Director, Institute for Dialogue Among Religious Traditions, School of Theology, Boston University

Joscelyn Godwin, Professor of Music, Colgate University

Peter Grilli, President, The Japan Society of Boston

Brian Jorgensen, Professor in the Core Curriculum, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University

William A. Marotti, Assistant Professor of History, University of California Los Angeles

Jennifer M. Matsue, Assistant Professor of Music, Union College

Donald Richie, Independent Filmmaker, Scholar and Writer, Tokyo

† Catherine M. Bell, Bernard J. Hanley Professor, Religious Studies Department Chair, Santa Clara University

#### GRANTS APPLIED FOR

Mellon Foundation, John E. Sawyer Seminars on the Comparative Study of Cultures Jan. 2009  
With Merry White (CAS AN), proposal entitled "Food, Dislocation, and Memory."

Japan Foundation Fellowship November 2007

Asian Cultural Council Fellowship November 2007